I claim:

1. A system comprising:

a digital camera;

a detection mechanism to cause the digital camera to take one or more photos of a

5   person, in response to detection of an event;

a face detection and selection mechanism to determine a best photo of the one or

more photos of the person, the best photo including a best picture of the face of the

person; and,

a database to store the best photo of the face of the person with at least a current

10   date in which the best photo was taken, the database also storing a plurality of best

photos of faces of people.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the detection mechanism comprises a motion

detector to detect presence of the person, such that detection of the presence of the

person causes the digital camera to take the one or more photos.

15   3. The system of claim 1, wherein the detection mechanism comprises a video

camera, such that a change in a field of view of the video camera from an earlier

frame to a later frame of the video camera causes the digital camera to take the one or

more photos.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the detection mechanism comprises a cash

20   register, such that ringing up a sale to the person on the cash register causes the digital

camera to take the one or more photos.

5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the database further stores a transaction record of the sale.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the detection mechanism is the digital camera itself.

5   7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the face detection and selection mechanism comprises face detection and selection software running on a computer.

8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the face detection and selection mechanism at least one compresses and encrypts the best photo of the face before the database stores the best photo of the face.

10   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the face detection and selection mechanism is communicatively coupled to the database over a network.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the database further stores a current time at which the best photo was taken.

11. A method comprising:

15   taking one or more photos of a person;

         determining a best photo of the one or more photos of the person, the best photo including a best picture of a face of the person; and,

         storing the best photo of the face of the person with at least a current date in which the best photo was taken in a database also storing a plurality of best photos of faces

20   of people.

12. The method of claim 11, initially comprising detecting an event, in response to which the one or more photos of the person are taken.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein detecting the event comprises detecting a presence of the person.

5   14. The method of claim 12, wherein detecting the event comprises detecting a sale to the person having rung up on a cash register.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein storing the best photo of the face of the person with at least the current date comprises storing the best photo of the face of the person with at least the current date and a transaction record of the sale.

10   16. The method of claim 11, wherein storing the best photo of the face of the person with at least the current date comprises storing the best photo of the face of the person with at least the current date and a current time at which the best photo was taken.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising, after determining the best photo, sending the best photo of the face of the person with at least the current date to the

15   database over a network.

18. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to perform a method comprising:

detecting a event;

in response to detecting the event, causing a digital camera to take one or more

20   photos of a person;

~~determining a best photo of the one or more photos of the person, the best photo~~

~~including a best picture of a face of the person; and,~~

~~causing the best photo of the face of the person to be stored with at least a current~~

~~date in which the best photo was taken in a database also storing a plurality of best~~

5   ~~photos of faces of people.~~

19. The medium of claim 18, wherein detecting the event comprises one of: detecting

a change in a field of view of a video camera from an earlier frame to a later frame,

and detecting a sale to the person having rung up on a cash register.

20. The medium of claim 18, wherein causing the best photo of the person to be

10   stored with at least the current date comprises sending the best photo of the face of the

person and at least the current date to the database over a network.